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CALGARY • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2008

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Celebrity pg 26

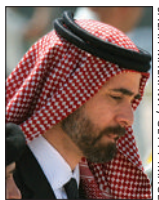
## Gwyneth helping Madge through divorce



## Jordanian prince to speak at U of C

**LECTURE** The University of Calgary will host a Middle Eastern prince later this week as the university launches its inaugural lecture series.

Prince Talal bin Muhammad of Jordan will open the U of C's first lecture series, called "The Middle East: Foreign Policy Considerations for Canada". The series is aimed at discussing topics relating to challenges faced by Canadians looking to establish businesses and other relationships in the Middle East.



Prince Talal bin Muhammad

Prince Talal is a special adviser to King Abdullah II of Jordan and has also served as a national security adviser to the late King Hussein. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Leonard and Vivian Cossette were able to salvage a wine bottle with an inscription in commemoration of the death of Vivian's brother-in-law — one of few undamaged items the couple were able to recover from their home, which was destroyed by fire yesterday.

# 'We lost everything'

## Arson suspected in fire that destroyed two homes

KRISTA SYLVESTER  
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

**A commemorative wine bottle inscribed to honour a late family member was one of only a few items a Calgary couple could salvage from the home they built 11 years ago, gutted early yesterday morning by fire.**

Vivian and Leonard Cossette returned to their Applewood home yesterday to view what was left of their dream home, emerging from the ashes holding a boxed wine bottle in

memory of Vivian's late brother-in-law.

"Everything is gone. It's totalled, completely totalled," Leonard said, scanning the charred remains of his home. "There is nothing left to salvage."

Vivian and her neighbour were woken by Carlos Camacho, credited by firefighters with potentially saving the lives of the two women sleeping alone in the homes on Applemont Place SE.

Camacho was headed home from his girlfriend's place when he noticed flames between the two

houses and promptly woke the inhabitants.

"I just think I did the right thing, what everyone else would have done," Camacho told Metro. "I'm glad I was able to help."

Vivian said she was very grateful for Camacho's actions, but was still visibly upset.

"This is just so sad. We lost everything. We had a lot of things in there," she said, adding this is the third time she has lost a house to a fire.

"I just can't do it anymore."

Fire department spokes-

### Aftermath

- The arson unit has been called in to investigate the fires. Damage for both homes is estimated at over \$465,000.

person Jeff Budai said the fire is very tragic for both couples who lost their homes, but he praised Camacho's efforts.

"His actions and reactions of waking them up and getting them out of there probably saved the lives of these two people," he said.

## City will slice admin costs to lower tax hike

NEIL MACKINNON  
neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

The hatchet will fall on city administration in an effort to get Calgary's impending property tax hike under 10 per cent.

In the first hint things are moving away from double digits, Ald. Joe Ceci said by limiting city administration growth, whose labour accounts for 60 to 70 per cent of Calgary's annual budget, council has managed to hone the hike to 9.6 per cent.

"We're very labour intensive," Ceci said. "The people we have will be doing more and we might not have all the resources necessary to do all the work."

In an effort to mitigate the possibility of an increase nearing 16 per cent, Ald. Gord Lowe said council's focus is "entirely on needs with very few wants."

Both Lowe and Ald. Dale Hodges think it's all "pure speculation," as council has yet to hash out the specifics of cuts, inclusions and firm numbers.

"All that gets done virtually on the spot," Hodges said. "It's going to be quite entertaining and the biggest crunch is going to come on the operating side, probably the biggest in the last 10 to 12 years."

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World pg 7



## Celebs boost youth vote

Travel pg 22

## Party rages on in Iceland despite crisis

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**Recovering horses return to Bonnyville**

The remaining 32 horses recovering from a truck crash Friday that killed 12 horses have been returned to their place of origin. It was recommended the horses go back to Bonnyville to be placed under veterinary care. **METRO CALGARY**

**3**

# Local



**"If she doesn't resign immediately, the premier should fire her."**

Alberta NDP Leader Brian Mason, left, calling for the resignation of Alberta Children and Youth Services Minister Janis Tarchuk, after information from a recent report was released, alleging children were kept in unsafe or inappropriate foster homes because there was nowhere else to place them.

**METRO CALGARY**

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## More ill seniors in family care

**KRISTA SYLVESTER**  
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

**More Canadians over the age of 45 are caring for seniors with health problems but that doesn't surprise a University of Calgary expert.**

Dr. Daniel Lai, gerontology expert at the U of C, said Statistic Canada reports released yesterday stating the increasing numbers is evidence of an aging population.

"It's actually a health phenomenon showing Canadians are living longer. We're seeing more and more older adults caring for seniors," he said.

Stats show that in 2007, about 2.7 million Canadians aged 45 and over, which is one-fifth of the total in the age group, provided some form of unpaid health care for seniors over 65.

"It also poses a challenge to Canadians

### Aging populace

• Between 2002 and 2007, the number of people providing care to seniors increased over 670,000. In 2006, the population of seniors in Canada surpassed 4.3 million, up 11.5 per cent from 2001.

**STATISTICS CANADA**

though, because a lot of them are coping very well, but a lot of them are juggling jobs and other responsibilities," he added.

Lai thinks the government needs to take a look at the numbers and realize there needs to be more services for caregivers.

Katherine O' Halloran, general manager of Fountains of Mission in Calgary, believes the increases also show more family members jumping in to care for family members.

### Hugworthy **Leaving it to beaver**



Sibongile Mkontshwana, 24, an exchange student from South Africa and Melissa Desilets, 24, from Quebec, found a friendly beaver to pose with on Stephen Avenue yesterday while visiting Calgary.

ROBIN KONISKI/METRO CALGARY

## Judge refuses plea change

**ANIMAL ABUSE** A Didsbury judge ruled yesterday accused animal abuser Daniel Haskett can't change his guilty plea to a non-guilty plea.

Heather Anderson of the Daisy Duke Foundation was pleased with the ruling.

"The judge won't let him change his plea, so that's really good, but his lawyer keeps dragging this on," a frustrated Anderson said.

Haskett was charged two years ago for the torture and killing of Daisy the dog. He will be back in court Dec. 17 for sentencing.

**METRO CALGARY**

## Alberta high school dropout rate increasing

The number of Alberta students quitting high school early in a booming province has gone up by around five per cent each year since 2003, said a report released by Education Minister Dave

Hancock yesterday. And employers' satisfaction with the quality of work by recent high school graduates is down 10 percentage points, said Hancock.

The report also showed an

increase in students who became eligible for Rutherford Scholarships at the Grade 12 level but cited declines in overall results of provincial achievement tests.

**JEFF CUMMINGS/METRO CANADA**

**metronews.ca**

What's online today.

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## 4 local

Calgary drivers will be happier filling up the gas tank as numerous stations are currently posting as low as 95.9 cents a litre across the city. **METRO CALGARY**



Juliana Wong and Stephanie Fan get help from city worker Lina Hauck during Tuesday's City of Calgary career fair in partnership with the Immigrant Sector Council of Calgary.

## City holds public service job expo

**Pavilpreet Kuar wants to be part of Calgary's team of public servants.**

Kuar, a recent computer science masters graduate and immigrant from India, said there's a lot of work for recent immigrants to do, both in the labour market and personally.

"That's what makes something like this so beneficial," she said at the joint city-Immigrant Sector Council career fair yesterday.

Hundreds milled about city booths ranging from the police service to help with resumes and international education assessments, dipping their toes into the city's strapped public service-sector job market, which has created 7,000 jobs over the past two years and is always looking for more people, said corporate services general manager Chris Good.

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY

## Mount Royal joins election dispute

**POLLING STATION** The Mount Royal College Students Association has thrown its support behind the University of Lethbridge Students' Union (ULSU) in a dispute with Elections Canada.

ULSU president Adam Vossepoel alleges that Elections Canada reneged on their pledge to put a polling station on the university's campus for all students to use.

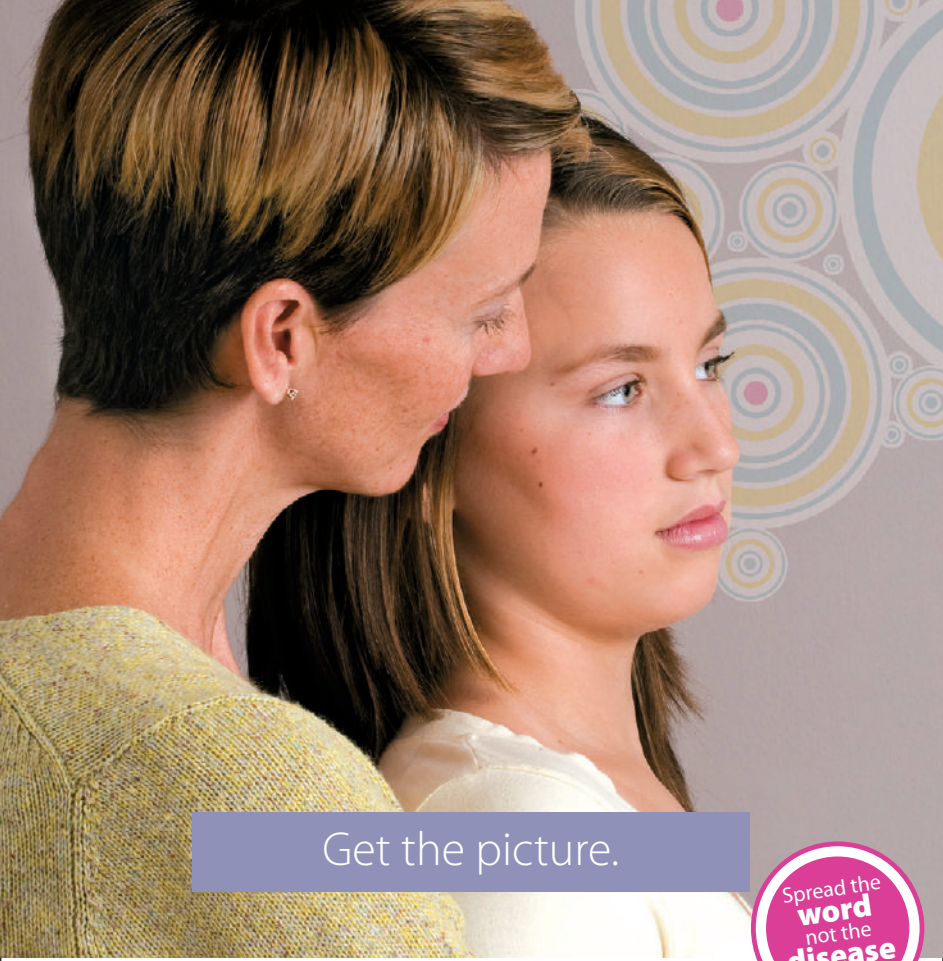
"We are 100 per cent in support of ULSU reaction to the loss of the polling station open to all students regardless of riding," SAMRC president Jeff Agnew said. **METRO CALGARY**

## News in brief

**BREAK-INS** City police are warning Mackenzie Lake residents to lock their doors at night after a rash of break-ins. Police are concerned after three homes in the community were targeted.

**ARSON** Calgary police are on the hunt for more arsonists after three cars were intentionally set ablaze in Erinwoods early yesterday morning.

**METRO CALGARY**



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**Twenty families signed on to Maple Leaf lawsuit**

Affidavits were filed in six provinces this week as part of a planned class-action lawsuit against Maple Leaf Foods Inc. Twenty families have signed on to the suit alleging a family member died as a result of eating listeriosis-tainted meat. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

# Canada



## Mexico OK's Alberta beef

Mexico has lifted a two-month ban on live cattle imported from Alberta, Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said yesterday. Trade in breeding cattle born after January 1999 has resumed, the Agriculture Department said in a statement. Mexico imposed the ban after Canada found its 14th case of mad cow disease in August.

REUTERS

### News in brief

**DEFICIT** The worldwide financial crisis will tip Ontario into a "small" budget deficit this year, forcing the postponement of planned new government programs, sources said on the eve of today's economic statement.

**UN** Canadian activist Maude Barlow has been appointed as the United Nation's first senior adviser on water issues, a role she hopes to use to establish water as a human right and to convince Canada to "change its shameful position" on the issue, CBC News Online reports.

**SIGNALS JAMMED** The federal cabinet authorized the RCMP to use counter-terrorism radio jammers to prevent bomb attacks at the international summit in Quebec City last week, government documents show, CBC News Online reports. RCMP declined to comment on the measure that was approved less than two weeks before the summit.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Canadian info likely led to torture: Inquiry

**Canadian security services probably contributed indirectly to the torture in Syria of three Arab Canadians who had been suspected of involvement in terrorist activities, an official inquiry found yesterday.**

Frank Iacobucci, who headed the commission that conducted the inquiry, concluded after interviewing the men that they had been tortured through a variety of means, including beatings with electric cables and being kicked in the genitals.

"Torture is a pernicious practice that is just beyond any kind of defence," said Iacobucci, a former Supreme Court judge.

The government-appointed inquiry covered the cases



Stockwell Day leaves a news conference in Ottawa yesterday after it was revealed that Canadian security services probably contributed indirectly to the Syrian torture of three Arab Canadians.

of Canadian-Egyptian Ahmad El Maati, Canadian-Syrian Abdullah Almalki and Canadian-Iraqi Muayyed Nureddin, who were arrested separately entering Syria between 2001 and 2003.

Iacobucci said mistreatment of the men did not re-

sult directly from any Canadian action, but Canadian officials indirectly led to the torture of El Maati and Almalki and likely also to that of Nureddin.

REUTERS



Watch a video related to this story at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

## Kyoto legal challenge fails

**COURT** Environmentalists have lost a legal challenge to force the federal government to abide by the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, which Canada signed but has refused to implement.

The Federal Court Monday dismissed a lawsuit filed by Friends of the Earth Canada that alleged

### Ruling

- The judge ruled it is not up to the court to decide if Ottawa acted reasonably in failing to meet its commitments.

the government broke the law by missing deadlines for implementing the treaty.

REUTERS

## Finding life expectancy of Arctic ice

**SEA ICE** Pen Hadow, the first person to walk solo from Canada to the Pole without aircraft supplies, is to return to the North Pole five years after his trek, in an attempt to establish when Arctic summer sea ice will disappear for good.

The receding ice has proved a battleground for countries in the region as

they race to stake claims on some of the richest untapped mineral and marine resources on the planet.

### Claims

- Russia has already claimed half of the Arctic sea bed.

The Arctic sea bed is thought to hold large untapped reserves of gas and oil, and the summer opening of the

Northwest Passage off Canada could cut weeks off east-west sea voyages.

REUTERS

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- If an Eligible Account is jointly held, only the primary account holder designated on the account is eligible for the Offer. Promotional interest will be calculated based on the primary account holder's Eligible Account(s).
- Under the Offer, promotional interest ("Promotional Interest") is the amount of interest to be paid that is in excess of the regular interest paid on each Eligible Account balance. This means that the Promotional annual interest rate, plus the regular annual interest rate, on an Eligible Account is 3.75%. Promotional Interest will be paid on the portion of the primary account holder's Eligible Account(s) average daily closing balance(s) during the Offer Period that exceed(s) the/their closing balance(s) as at August 31, 2008 (the "Additional Balance"). If an Eligible Account is overdrawn as at August 31, 2008, the August 31, 2008 closing balance is deemed to be zero. If an Eligible Account is opened during the Offer Period, it will earn a combined rate equal to the current Promotional Interest rate plus the current regular interest rate on the average daily closing balance from the date it is opened for the duration of the Offer Period.
- Eligible Accounts will continue to earn regular interest on balances, calculated daily and paid monthly. With the no fee bank account you earn a higher regular rate on higher balances, and with the Interest Plus Savings Account you earn a higher regular rate on balances over \$1,000 as well as bonus anniversary interest.
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# Find new commission chair fast: Fontaine

**It was never envisaged that Justice Harry LaForme would rule the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission with absolute authority, says Phil Fontaine, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations.**

A picture emerged yes-

terday of LaForme ruling the three-person commission with an iron will, and, according to one source, even demanded to be called "your honour" by his two colleagues.

"We never contemplated that one commissioner would be more important

**"We never contemplated that one commissioner would be more important than the other two."**

Phil Fontaine

than the other two commissioners. It was seen as a commission that operated on the basis of consensus," Fontaine told a press

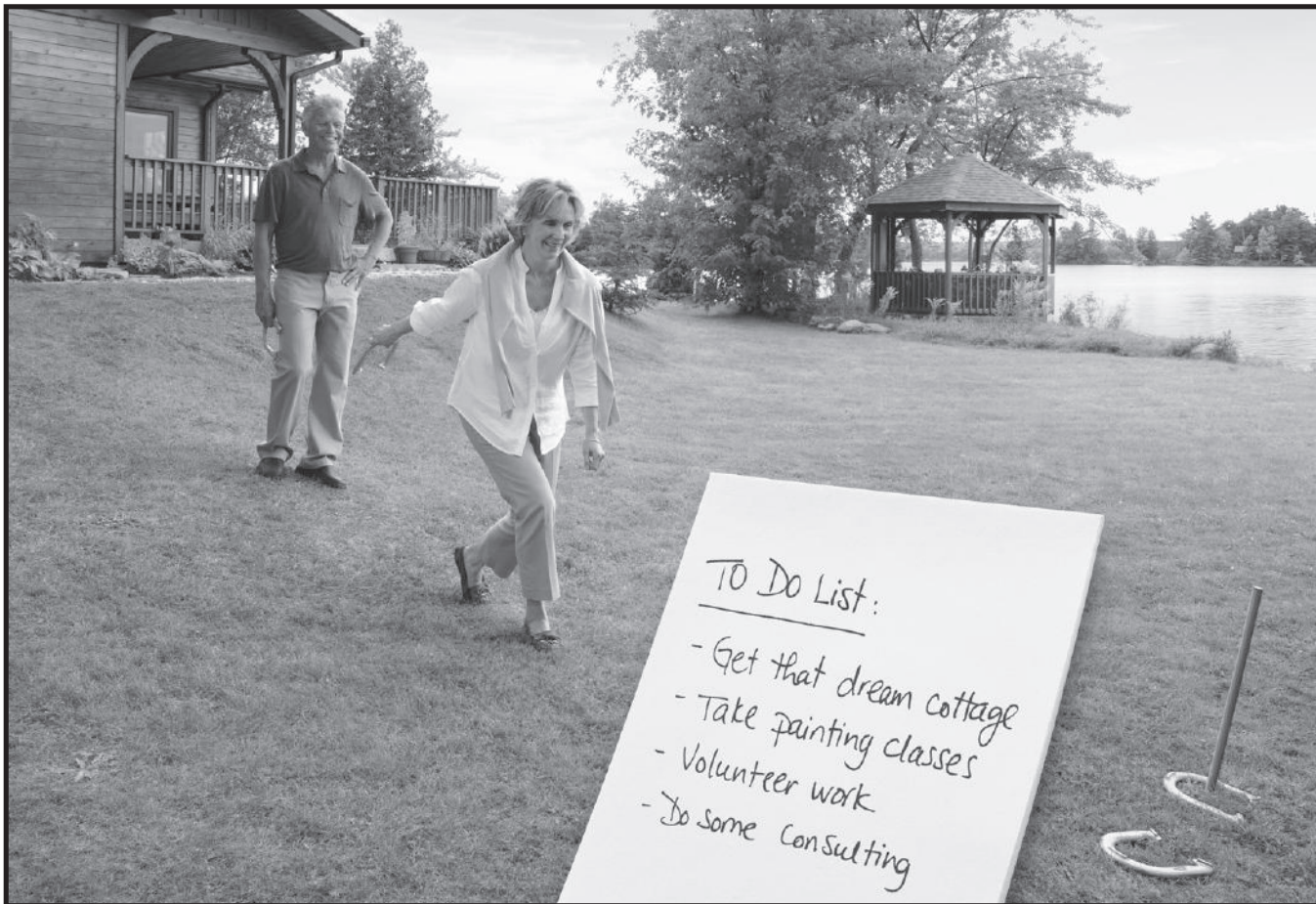
conference.

LaForme, a native and Ontario Court of Appeal justice, suddenly resigned yesterday as commission-

er chair, citing differences with the other two commissioners, Jane Brewin-Morley and Claudette Dumont-Smith, including the fact that they "repeatedly and openly" rejected the proposition that he was to shape the commission's course.

Fontaine said the em-

phasis should not be on why LaForme left but rather on replacing him as soon as possible so the \$60-million commission, which has a five-year mandate, can get down to the work of encouraging former students and others to share their tragic experiences. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



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## Guantanamo Bay detainee finds refugee sponsors in Canada

**MONTREAL** An Algerian detained in the American military prison at Guantanamo, Cuba, amid legal uncertainty could find a home in Canada, where he has the backing of religious, human rights and refugee groups in Montreal.

Djamel Ameziiane is one of more than 50 detainees looking for refuge because the U.S. will not try him before a military commission and cannot send him to Algeria, where he could face persecution.

Supporters of the 41-year-old Algerian are expected to announce in Montreal today that they have submitted a private sponsorship application asking the Canadian government to accept him as a refugee "in urgent need of protection."

"Mr. Ameziiane is a survivor of brutal mistreatment, torture and arbitrary detention by the U.S. and is at

### Capture

• Ameziiane was captured and sold to the U.S. by Pakistani forces in early 2002.

risk of more of the same — or worse — in Algeria," said Andrew Brouwer, Ameziiane's Toronto lawyer. "This application to be resettled to Canada is his only hope."

The Pentagon alleges Ameziiane was staying at a guesthouse run by an al-Qaida specialist in the fall of 2001 and fled with the Taliban to Tora Bora, Afghanistan. But a summary of the allegations against him notes he is not accused of receiving "military or terrorist training and did not see any fighting." Nor do they say he was involved in planning or financing terror attacks.

Ameziiane says he had no association with al-Qaida or the Taliban, and that he fled Afghanistan to go to Pakistan and escape the fighting. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

# India launching moon mission today

India will launch its first unmanned moon mission today, following in the footsteps of rivals China and Japan, as it tries to show off its scientific know-how and claim a bigger chunk of the global space business. **REUTERS**

# World



## Russia releases deputy minister

Russia released a deputy finance minister yesterday, pending his trial for embezzlement, a move that may show Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin has checked attempts to undermine his position. Sergei Storchak, who oversaw Russia's debt and its \$163 billion oil wealth fund, was arrested last November and accused of attempting to embezzle \$43 million in a complex deal with foreign debts owed to Russia. **REUTERS**

## Celebs selling youth on vote

Initiatives by celebrities like Beyoncé Knowles, Christina Aguilera and Sean (P. Diddy) Combs to persuade young people to vote have been successful, research showed yesterday.



Sean Combs

"Celebrities have the power to motivate civic engagement, regardless of their own grasp of the issues at hand," according to a study by Washington State University published in the Mass Communication and Society journal.

The study, led by Erica Austin, researched the influence of "get out the vote" campaigns in 2004 involving Knowles, Aguilera, Combs and other celebrities. It quoted a Pace University poll in 2004 that showed 44 per cent of newly registered voters were ages 18 to 25.

The study found that "the cause of this dramatic increase in voter participation of young people in 2004 can largely be attributed to celebrity promotions."

About 44 million people aged 18 to 29 are eligible to vote in the Nov. 4 presidential election. If young-voter turnout exceeds 50 per cent, it would only be the third time since 1972.

**REUTERS**

## Thailand Ex PM found guilty



Supporters of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) celebrate and hold a banner at the Government House in Bangkok yesterday. Thailand's Supreme Court ruled yesterday that former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra had violated a conflict-of-interest law while in office.

## News in brief

**JUSTICE** A U.S. court awarded \$80 million in damages to three Cuban dockworkers in a "modern-day slavery" scheme between the Cuban government and a ship repair group.

**JOURNALIST** Afghanistan's appeal court sentenced a journalist to 20 years in jail for distributing an Internet article that said the Prophet Mohammad had ignored the rights of women. An earlier death sentence was commuted **REUTERS**

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## News in brief

**U.S.A.** President George W. Bush said yesterday it would be a "serious mistake" to turn inward as a result of the global

financial crisis and the United States must stay committed to helping the world's poor.

REUTERS

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# Re-thinking nature's value

**The worst financial crisis since the 1930s may be a chance to put price tags on nature in a radical economic rethink to protect everything from coral reefs to rainforests, environmental experts say.**

Farmers know the value of land from the amount of crops they can produce,

but large parts of the natural world are usually viewed as "free."

Advocates of "eco-nomics" say that valuing "natural capital" could help protect nature from rising human populations, pollution and climate change that do not figure in conventional measures of wealth such as gross do-

mestic product (GDP).

Robert Costanza, professor of ecological economics at the University of Vermont, helped get international debate underway a decade ago with an estimate that the value of natural services was \$33 trillion US a year.

Costanza, in a letter to the journal Science with a

colleague earlier this year, said one way to value nature would be to set up a government-backed system to trade all greenhouse gas emissions and channel the revenues, estimated at \$0.9 to \$3.6 trillion a year, into an "Earth Atmospheric Trust," which could be used to fund clean energy. **REUTERS**

## U.S. drops charges against five Guantanamo captives

**COURT** The Pentagon official overseeing the Guantanamo war crimes court dismissed all charges against five prisoners yesterday, including a British resident who says he falsely confessed to a radioactive "dirty bomb" plot

while being tortured.

The Defense Department gave no reason for dropping the charges but said new prosecutors had been appointed to review the cases and could refile the charges later.

REUTERS

## Bomb blast kills 14 in India

**ATTACK** At least 14 people were killed and nearly 40 wounded when a powerful bomb exploded yesterday in India's troubled northeast, police said.

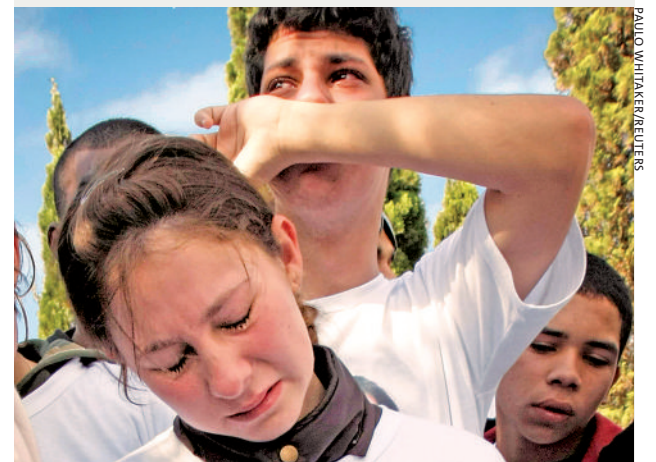
The device is thought to have been hidden in a bicy-

cle near a high-security police commando training centre in Imphal. It is unknown if police are among the dead.

No one has claimed responsibility for the blast.

REUTERS

## Brazil **Murdered teen mourned**



Teenagers mourn during the funeral of Eloa Cristina Pimentel in Santo Andre, Brazil, yesterday. Doctors said Pimentel, 15, was declared brain dead after being held hostage for four days and then shot allegedly by her ex-boyfriend.

PAULO WHITAKER/REUTERS

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# An Open Letter From Donald Trump To All Calgary Area Residents

Who Want To Get Rich In Real Estate & Business!



## Trump Tells All!

**“I’ve Made Billions And Now I want To Share My Success Secrets With You!”**

— Donald Trump,  
Executive Producer, *The Apprentice*,  
NBC • Chairman, Trump Institute

**D**ear Calgary Area Resident,

Have you seen my TV show, *The Apprentice*? It’s been one of the top rated shows on NBC for eight consecutive seasons!

Not only that, it has made me a media phenomenon and forever changed my life.

And now, at the age of 60, I’ve decided to make a bold move to share my knowledge and experience in such a way that it could be a great advantage to you.

### What Kind Of Advantage?

The best kind of advantage; the kind of advantage that could make you money and make you rich.

If you are seriously interested in hearing what I have to say about being successful, about making money and about getting rich, please read every word of this letter carefully. It contains an invitation for you to discover what has taken me the better part of my life to learn and put into action.

Please let me explain.

Before *The Apprentice*, I was famous for building the world’s largest and most beautiful buildings, golf courses and casinos, and for being a marketing whiz when it comes to succeeding in business. Everywhere I went people treated me like royalty and I was generally considered a big shot.

### Everything Has Changed!

Because of *The Apprentice*, everything has changed. I have truly become a household word, globally. Everywhere I go people say something to me. Sometimes they say, “Trump, you’re fired!” Or, “You’re hired!” But always, they greet me with respect, humor and friendship. It’s like they know me personally.

I love that!

With this monumental fame there comes a great responsibility (and an enormous opportunity) to make a huge contribution to the North American economy.

### Something Extraordinary For You!

Since the amazing success of *The Apprentice*, I have been wondering what to do with this new power of worldwide fame. Recently I got the idea to do something truly extraordinary and totally outside of the box.

What I’ve decided is that I want to train and educate the next generation of real estate moguls and business entrepreneurs. Why?

There are two very good reasons:

#### Reason #1:

America’s been very good to me and my family and this is a great way I can give back to the country and help stimulate real economic growth.

#### Reason #2:

I believe that what I have to share will create so much success for my students, that I will leave a legacy as being the father of modern real estate acquisition and entrepreneurial success.

You see, one thing you should know about me is that more than anything, I want to be known as a great businessman, maybe even the greatest!

That’s why I have created Trump Institute.

### Want To Know How I Do It?

Would you like to know how I buy and sell real estate? How I pick properties for huge profits and high yield equity gains?

Would you like to know what I look for when buying a business or starting a new business? If so, I’m inviting you to come to a special seminar introducing Trump Institute. At this seminar you’ll see first hand the type of education I am offering.

### Who Should Attend?

If you’re asking yourself, “could this be the moment that changes everything for me?” All I can say is, you’ll never know unless you try.

### Your Success Depends On You!

Ultimately, your success depends on you, and with my help, you can get an education and an advantage that has not only proven to work for

me, but it has also worked for many of the world’s richest men and women.

You see, in my quest to be the best, I have sought the advice and guidance from people who have also experienced mega-billionaire success. I have incorporated their techniques and experiences into my own personal treasure chest of successful business and real estate knowledge, strategies, and wisdom.

### A Powerful Team of Experts!

I also have an incredible team of business entrepreneurs and real estate mavens (very talented experts), who deliver my material and my lessons.

These are men and women who are highly successful professionals in business and real estate. They speak from my lips to your ears and they back it up with experience, knowledge and wisdom. I wouldn’t put my name on it any other way.

### Money-Making Skills

Through this seminar you’ll learn practical money-making advice about how to be successful in business and how I invest in real estate.

Here’s just a sample of what you’ll learn:

- **You are going to learn the Trump Way to get cash back when you BUY a property.**
- Learn the Trump Way to get other people to jump-start your business.
- **The Trump Way to find great deals in the hidden markets others don’t know about.**
- The Trump Way to finance your business without putting up your house or risking personal liability.
- **The Trump Way to build YOUR real estate empire property by property**
- You will discover the Trump Way to make piles of cash.
- **You will learn the Trump Way to get the government to buy your product and rent your properties.**
- You’ll see the Trump Way to negotiate with bankers—and win big!

- **The Trump Way to be your own boss—forever.**

- The Trump Way to build your retirement account quickly and live the lifestyle of your dreams.

- **The Trump Way to stop paying high taxes.**

- The Trump Way to build your Power Team—the right way.

- **The Trump Way to structure your business organization for maximum profit and protection.**

- The Trump Way to make terrific deals on real estate in a buyers OR sellers market.

If you’re serious about winning in business or catching the world’s greatest wave of real estate profits, come to this introductory seminar. There are more opportunities in business and real estate in the **Calgary** area than ever before.

### This Is Your Invitation

It is for this reason that I am making an absolutely irresistible invitation for you to attend my Trump Institute Introductory Seminar.

## It’s FREE!

Here’s the deal: Admission is FREE, but you must call and make a reservation.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Trump

P.S. When I said I was going to give you my best deal, I wasn’t kidding! See below!

### P.P.S. My Best Deal!

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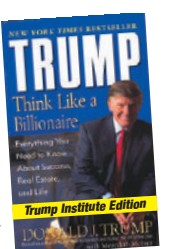
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As a special bonus for all seminar attendees, I am offering free, a special edition copy of my best selling book:

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This is a fantastic business and real estate book and has been a best-seller in book stores around the country.

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#### • SUN., OCT. 26TH

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**Glenmore Inn & Convention Centre**  
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(At Ogden Rd. SE & Glenmore Trail)

#### • MON., OCT. 27TH

1:00pm or 7:00pm  
**Château Louis Hotel & Conference Centre**  
11727 Kingsway  
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(Across from the Edmonton Municipal Airport)

#### • TUE., OCT. 28TH

1:00pm or 7:00pm  
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(Additional materials will be offered for sale at this Introductory Conference.)

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# Comment & Views

## Comment

### Castles in sand will sink

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

Journalist & Media Consultant

Tell me what's wrong with this picture. In my neighbourhood, a modest, two-bedroom, postwar bungalow goes up for sale — and sells for \$1 million. The guy who buys it tears it down, puts up a splendid 5,500-square-foot castle and puts it on the market for \$2.3 million.

It's still sitting there, unsold, six months later.

There was a For Rent sign on it for a while, but I guess they thought it sent the wrong message, so they took it down.

People stop and peer in

the windows as they walk their dogs. They've never seen anything like it before. It's a completely new kind of folly and they find it interesting.

But every day I get up, look out the front window at the Museum of Excess and the bad feeling grows: OMG, this is crazy. Million dollar teardowns! Palaces on poky suburban streets! We're gonna crash!

There are some who don't buy the argument that the U.S. real estate meltdown will blow the roof down in Canada. But the facts state otherwise: The average price of a home declined 6.2 per cent across the country in September.

The Canadian Real Estate Association reports that declines in Canada's most expensive housing markets will pull down the national average for the rest of this year and into 2009. "Canada's most ex-

**These days, not even a Left Coast condomaniac is going to pay \$800K for an 800 square foot condo.**

pensive housing markets" include the Vancouver street where I live, but before you start gloating, Rest of Canada, it also includes Calgary and Toronto, and sooner or later Montreal, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Halifax ... did I miss your place?

The average price of homes in Vancouver is still a ridiculous \$535,598. But that's 8 per cent less than last year, and perhaps even more significant, sales are running 43 per cent below last year. What's that loud popping sound?

Those of us sitting on a pile of shrinking equity mumble denials like worry

beads: Vancouver is the No. 1 city in the world according to the Economist or whatever ... the 2010 Olympics will save us ... everyone wants to live here. The Bank of Canada will save us, keeping that easy money pipeline open. Etc. But as Bertolt Brecht said: Those who are still laughing have not yet heard the bad news.

These days, not even a Left Coast condomaniac is going to pay \$800K for an 800 square foot condo (yep, that's \$1,000 a square foot) — even if it does come with granite counter tops!

Maybe never again. What was that Jimi Hendrix song? Castles made of sand sink into the sea ... eventually.

I think "eventually" just happened — right across the street.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist, owner of Sullivan Media consulting, and Editor in Chief of Orato.com, the citizen news website.

THE LIBERALS NEED A LEADER WHO CAN UNITE THE PARTY. I AGREE.



MICHAEL DE ADER

## Views

### Celebrate entrepreneurs' hard work

By BECKY REUBER

It's Small Business Week in Canada, and a great opportunity to celebrate over one million Canadians who own and manage a small business. These businesses create jobs and innovative products and services. They employ roughly half of the private sector work force, and spend proportionally more on Research and Development than their much larger counterparts. Many are proving to be competitive in foreign markets. In fact, Canadian small businesses account for roughly 20 per cent of Canadian exports.

Not only are small businesses good for our economy, they are also beneficial to the entrepreneurs who start them. They can provide income, exciting challenges, and the chance to be your own boss. However, during Small Business Week, this week, it is important to remember that



**Even more striking is that one in three self-employed Canadians work more than 50 hours a week, compared with one in 20 Canadians who are employees.**

there are also costs associated with being a small business owner.

One cost is that you have to work really hard. Self-employed Canadians, on average, work six hours more each week than the rest of us: Even more striking is that one in three self-employed Canadians work more than 50 hours a week, compared with one in twenty Canadians who are employees.

These long working hours can take their toll. Many business owners report feeling isolated. They can't sit around the water cooler and shoot the breeze with their co-workers the way that employees

can. Their peers are entrepreneurs working long hours in other businesses and it's difficult to find the time to socialize. They are around people all day, but most of these people are customers, suppliers, or employees who want something from them, and so they're always on.

Finally, many small business owners have money worries. Investors aren't that easy to come by, and most entrepreneurs use their own funds to start and manage their businesses. Two-thirds of Canadian small business owners finance their businesses with their personal savings. Other frequently

used sources of financing are personal credit cards, personal loans and personal lines of credit. Entrepreneurs continually need to balance the need for more funds, to fuel business growth, on the one hand, and the riskiness of taking on more debt, on the other.

Many small business owners feel in a more precarious position during this year's Small Business Week than they have in past years, due to the recent financial crisis. Many of them worry that their customer base could erode and that funds for hoped-for innovation and improvements will be difficult to come by. This is a great time for you to show your appreciation for their contributions to the Canadian economy by supporting small businesses in your local community.

Becky Reuber is Professor of Strategic Management at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management where she teaches Entrepreneurship and researches Canadian entrepreneurs' growth strategies.

## Letters

Greg Plante, CALGARY

Ald. Andre Chabot's suggestion that it might be time for council to consider re-installing control arms at downtown LRT intersections is all well and good (C-Train crushes car — Oct. 20) but I don't think it's a complete solution. Ground level crossings will always be a hazard. Instead of a band-aid to fix the problem with crossing arms, let's put in a permanent solution like running the C-Train underground or above ground through the downtown.

Lynn Cornell, CALGARY

I was reading the news item C-Train crushes car (Oct. 20) and can't believe Ald. Andre Chabot wants the control arms re-installed. What a waste of taxpayers' money. Drivers need to start paying better attention when they operate vehicles of any kind. If everyone obeyed the rules of the road, how many accidents would there be? I hear of accidents involving C-trains and have NO sympathy for the driver or pedestrians. They need to learn to pay attention.

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**EBay to ban sale of ivory products**

EBay Inc. will ban the sale of all ivory products via its online auction site by Jan. 1 after a conservation group found over 4,000 illegal elephant ivory listings by sellers. African and Asian elephants are protected by international trade conventions. **REUTERS**

**11**

# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Bank of Canada cuts rate

**Canadian investors were left hungry for more and slightly confused yesterday when the Bank of Canada surprised them with a meeker-than-expected rate cut, a move that seemed at odds with its bleak outlook.**

Many analysts thought that if the bank bothered to cut rates at all, the financial crisis warranted a half-point rate cut in a single shot. Instead, the bank shaved a quarter point off its benchmark rate, opting to wait until December be-

fore considering another quarter-point cut. It's perhaps explained by signs that global credit markets are starting to thaw thanks to liquidity injections and government help for banks. **REUTERS**

### Brief bump ends

The S&P/TSX composite index snapped a two-day winning streak to close down 455.60 points, or 4.44 per cent, at 9,795.80, on a smaller-than-expected rate cut and falling commodity prices.

## Ottawa buys more mortgages

**BAILOUT** Ottawa said yesterday the government-run Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. agency will buy up to \$7 billion of insured mortgages from fi-

nancial institutions tomorrow, the second chunk of a \$25-billion plan to help banks free up cash for lending and relieve credit constraints. **REUTERS**

### Business in brief

**RAIL** Canadian National Railway posted a 14 per cent rise in a quarterly profit of \$552 million, or \$1.16 a share.

**OIL** Husky Energy's third-quarter profit jumped 65 per cent to \$1.27 billion, or \$1.50 a share, as oil hit record highs.

**GAS** Russia, Iran and Qatar have formed a consensus to set up a permanent OPEC-style gas export group.

**MEAT** Maple Leaf Foods has clearance from health officials to distribute meat from its Toronto plant. **REUTERS**



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- Optional: support material, such as a resume, art work (photographs, writing, videos, etc.)
- Send or drop off your application to:

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Detroit Red Wings defenceman Andreas Lilja underwent a successful procedure to remove his appendix on Tuesday. Lilja is scoreless in five games thus far in 2008-09. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Sports

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## Canseco sorry for snitching

Jose Canseco says he's sorry for naming names of fellow baseball players who used steroids. During Monday's A&E documentary, *Jose Canseco: The Last Shot*, the former slugger says his anger at Major League Baseball prompted him to make the accusations in his 2005 book. "If I could meet with Mark McGwire and these players, I definitely would apologize to them," Canseco said, according to the New York Daily News. "They were my friends. I admired them. I respected them." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Flames Capitalize

## NHL RESULT

Capitals 1 Flames 2



LAURENCE HEINEN  
for Metro Calgary

**THE SKINNY:** After falling behind 1-0 early, the Flames battled back with second period goals by Jarome Iginla and Matthew Lombardi for a hard-fought victory.

**THE DROUGHT:** The Flames ended a stretch of eight games and nine years without a win against Washington.

**THE BIG HIT:** In his first NHL game, Washington defenceman Tyler Sloan

absolutely leveled Calgary forward Daymond Langkow with a thunderous check in the neutral zone during first period action.

### THE RETALIATION:

Afterwards, Flames forward Rene Bourque took exception to Sloan's hit and pummelled the Calgary native to the ice, subsequently drawing 19 minutes in penalties.

**THE BIG KILL:** Calgary penalty killers limited Washington to just three shots and no goals in seven minutes of power-play time for the Caps resulting from Bourque's actions.

**THE PARADE:** To the penalty box. After their lengthy man advantage, the Capitals took seven straight penalties, but surrendered just one power-play goal off the stick of Iginla.

**RELIABLE RUSSIAN:** Sergei Fedorov scored Washington's lone goal to pull the 18-year NHL veteran into a tie with Alexander Mogilny for the most career-goals (473) by a Russian-born player.

**THE ROAD TRIP:** The Flames now head out on the road to face the Predators in Nashville on Thursday (6 p.m.) before travelling to Phoenix to face the Coyotes on Saturday (8 p.m.).



Mark Giordano celebrates a Flames goal in the second period last night.

# A Stamps-Eskies Grey Cup coming?

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

this season, however, the division's last-place team will cross over for the Eastern semi-final at Winnipeg. And, if it beats the mediocre **Blue Bombers**, it would meet the **Alouettes** in Montreal in the Eastern final Nov. 17. And, if it defeats the Als, this Western team would actually qualify as the Eastern representative for the Grey Cup.

With two weeks remaining in the regular season, the red-hot Stamps are atop the West with 22 points and are Cup favourites.

The **B.C. Lions** and **Saskatchewan Roughriders** trail the Stamps with 20 points each, and the Esks would at this point qualify as the crossover

team into the Eastern playoffs as the Western cellar-dweller, with 18 points. All of which explains why an all-Alberta Grey Cup is feasible.

Which is cool, I suppose, if you're an Albertan.

But what would it do for Canadians in general? Would it be of interest for the masses or a turn-off?

CFL spokesman **Jamie Dykstra** emerged with a politically correct answer for me yesterday, saying: "Our position is that, any time we can have the two

best teams in the Grey Cup, that's what we're looking for."

Other CFL sources, however, tell me CFL commissioner **Mark Cohon** has let it slip in private that he's hoping the Als flourish in the post-season in order to ensure an authentic East-West Grey Cup.

I understand the concerns. But that's life in the CFL. There are always concerns. There are always complications.

For the record, there have been four crossover teams in the CFL since the format was instituted in 1997.

None won a playoff game. But there's always a first. And this year's Esks — or any Western team, for that matter — are strong enough to end the crossover drought and advance to the Cup final next month.

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Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

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Dallas at New Jersey  
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Detroit at St. Louis  
Edmonton at Chicago

**Shopping tip**

Sign up for customer rewards program at stores that you regularly shop at. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**13**

# Loyalty & Rewards

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

## All about choice

Broad range of rewards, including cash, now available

**TERRENCE BELFORD**  
for Metro Canada



**Just a decade ago, men and women collecting loyalty rewards across Canada had a pair of plain vanilla choices when it came to cashing in those points: Air travel or a limited range of merchandise.**

Today, plain vanilla has morphed into more choices than the front counter at a Baskin Robbins ice cream parlour.

Depending on the program, rewards points can pay down mortgages and personal loans, pay municipal property taxes in some cities, be converted into retirement or education savings or provide a chunk of

cash back at the end of the year.

Recipients can rent cars, pay for vehicles, support charities, spend a weekend at a spa, go to a movie or a concert and purchase anything from \$25 gift certificates to Vespa scooters and big screen televisions — or even offset all that carbon whooshed into the atmosphere by jet planes.

“For us, it is a matter of meeting customer demand, doing the research, finding out what customers really want and then offering that kind of reward,” says Stacey Pearson, associate vice-president of retail products at TD Visa. “We have done the studies of our customers, and what they

have told us they really want is two things: Travel and cash back.”

The result? TD offers a quartet of Visa cards with travel rewards, two of which give cash back based on total spending.

“At the end of each year, we send out cheques to cardholders in the tens of millions of dollars,” she says. “For many of them, it is the happiest day of the year. With the cash they receive, they can go out and buy what they want. There is no need for merchandise rewards.”

Lori Gray, vice-president of branch banking for the Ontario region at HSBC Canada, says she would go along with part of that. HSBC customers want travel

and cash back, but they also want two other options: Merchandise and the ability to give rewards points to charities.

“Loyalty is all about choices,” she says. “Collectors usually decide from the beginning what kinds of rewards best suit them and then start working out ways to maximize spending so they get the rewards they want.”

“At our bank, there is a 50-50 split between customers collecting for travel and customers collecting for other rewards, including merchandise, charitable donations and cash back.”

At Air Miles, all categories of rewards showed a huge increase in redemptions last year, says Neil Everett, senior vice-president and chief marketing officer at Loyalty One, which runs the program. “Redemptions are up 13 per cent so far this year,” he says. “To date, 94 per cent of all collectors have redeemed for something.”

The most popular rewards are gift certificates, including fuel cards, followed by electronics.

Collectors usually start by redeeming for small rewards — perhaps an A&P gift certificate — says Everett. Then they move up the chain.

“The next redemption might be something like



Studies have shown customers prefer cash back and travel rewards, as well as merchandise and the ability to donate points.

an iPod. When they find out how easy it is ... they set their sights higher.”

How high? Everett says Air Miles will fill about 600,000 airline seats this year — or one every 3.9 seconds.

At Aeroplan, merchandise rewards are fast rising in popularity.

In 2006, they accounted for 18 per cent of redemptions. Last year, that figure rose to 20 per cent and, this year, it has already reached that 20 per cent mark, says Nathalie Berlinger, general manager of rewards management at Groupe Aeroplan in Montreal.

Aeroplan currently offers more than 500 mer-

chandise rewards, including Vespa motor scooters that cost 619,000 miles each.

“We started life as a frequent-flyer program but are now in the process of recreating ourselves as a more complicated, more sophisticated frequent-flyer and frequent-spender program,” Berlinger says.

“To do that, we have added a range of redemption choices, including merchandise, charitable giving, experiential rewards and even a new carbon credit program, which lets members use rewards points to offset the carbon dioxide their flights release into the atmosphere.”

### Just cash, please

Here's a look at five of the top credit cards in Canada that offer their subscribers cash back on purchases.

#### **Capital One 1 per cent Cash Back Platinum Mastercard**

- 0.5 per cent cash back on purchases of up to \$3,000; 1 per cent back on all purchases greater than \$3,000.
- No maximum rebate.

#### **Citibank Enrich Mastercard**

- 1 per cent cash back on all purchases.
- Maximum of \$250 back per

year (\$25,000 spending).

#### **Canadian Tire Cash Advantage Mastercard**

- 1 per cent cash back when you spend more than \$1,000 during a billing cycle.
- 2 per cent back for purchases at Canadian Tire stores and gas stations.
- No maximum rebate.

#### **CIBC 1 per cent Dividend Visa**

- 0.25 per cent cash back on annual purchases up to \$1,500; 0.5 per cent back on purchases from \$1,500.01 to

\$3,000; 1 per cent back for net purchases over \$3,000.

- No maximum rebate.

#### **American Express Costco Platinum Cash Rebate Card**

- 0.25 per cent cash back on the first \$2,000 in purchases; 0.5 per cent back on the next \$3,000 in purchases; 1.5 per cent back on any amount over \$5,000.

• Maximum rebate of \$500 (\$37,000 spending).

- Must have a Costco membership to be eligible.

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When shopping for travel rewards programs, consider what portion of the cost the program covers. Some rewards just apply to the basic fare, which means you would have to pay extra for airport taxes, fuel surcharges and more. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Building brand key

## Keeping customers happy important as market falls

**RAFAEL BRUSILOW**  
for Metro Canada



**As the market continues to plummet, keeping current customers loyal to your brand is likely to become more important than ever.**

With less money to spend in a down-turning economy, even the strongest sellers are likely to see a drop in their overall sales, regardless of whether customers stick with their particular brand. There are some bright spots, however.

When times get tough people take fewer risks, meaning they do tend to stick with reliable brands they know and trust.

Loyalty incentives such

as quantity discounts, frequent shopper cards and Air Miles reward points can also have a greater impact than usual as customers look for every savings edge they can get when shopping.

Malcolm Fowler, senior vice-president of Vancouver-based loyalty solutions company Ernex, says that loyalty programs actually become more important as tough times hit.

"It is a common misconception that in harder times loyalty programs become one of the first things that are cut from marketing budgets. As the economy continues to squeeze consumers' wallets, consumers will look to spend their dollars where they



Keeping current customers happy is a win-win situation financially, experts say.

get the most value — a loyalty program can be a key differentiator," Fowler said.

He does expect retailers will forgo the long-term rewards packages and instead focus more on instant gratification.

"As consumers begin to look toward ways to cut down their expenses, businesses may offer shorter, more immediate rewards rather than focusing on

awards that may seem harder to attain," Fowler said.

He also says research has shown obtaining new customers is three to five times as expensive as it is to maintain the business of current customers, so keeping current customers happy is a win-win situation financially.

As long as businesses update their loyalty programs

to make sure they are relevant to their customers' needs and tastes, Fowler says customers will come back.

"It really doesn't matter if someone who will never purchase from your business doesn't see value in your loyalty program — it does matter that your best customers do and that the program is relevant to your target market," he said.

**"As the economy continues to squeeze customers' wallets, consumers will look to spend their dollars where they get the most value — a loyalty program can be a key differentiator."** Malcolm Fowler

# Redemption rates rise during the holidays

**ERIC EMIN WOOD**  
for Metro Canada



Thinking about redeeming those reward points this November? You're not alone. Most loyalty programs see their redemption rates go up during the holiday season, and this year, despite talk of a recession, is expected to be no different.

"From a rewards perspective, we're pretty confident that people are going to be using their miles as much, if not more, to get the things that they want for the holidays," says Nathalie Belanger, general manager of rewards management with Aeroplan.

Two-thirds of Aeroplan's four million members redeem their points during the holiday season, says Belanger. Rate of accumulation is roughly one mile for every dollar spent, with non-flight rewards ranging from \$50 gift cards (which cost around 6,000 miles) to a 50-inch HDTV (483,000 miles).

Rival Air Miles is no different. "I think the big focus is just people getting smarter about how they



Retail programs tend to gain customers during the holidays.

spend their dollars," says Neil Everett, senior vice-president and chief marketing officer with Air Miles. "Our program is primarily based on things you need to buy every day, so we don't see a significant change in that behaviour."

The Air Miles reward program includes 14.5 million members in Canada, with more than 100 sponsors offering more than 800 products and gift certificates in every category

imaginable. Rewards include the iPod Touch (4,200 miles), a 50-inch HD TV (36,000 miles) and Flare magazine subscriptions (75 miles). Most sponsors offer one Air Mile for every \$20 spent.

Neither Aeroplan nor Air Miles see enrolments spike during the holidays. "We typically see about 60,000 enrolments a month," says Everett. "It takes a bit of time to collect miles, so there really isn't an advan-

tage to enrolling at this particular time of year."

Retail programs usually gain customers during the holiday season, however.

"Since the holidays are our busiest season and most enrolment happens in our stores, we typically see an increase in memberships," says Shawn Bloom, director of Hbc Rewards.

Members of the Hbc reward program earn 50 points for every dollar they spend at any Bay, Zellers or

Home Outfitters store. Rewards include Hbc gift cards (a \$100 gift card is worth 800,000 points), gas, movies and even flights.

More customers sign up for Indigo's iRewards program during the holiday season as well, says Deirdre Horgan, chief marketing officer of Indigo. "We see a quarter of our annual members sign up during the November-December time period," she says. Members of the program account for more than 40 per cent of the company's overall sales.

The iRewards program differs from the others in that it's fee-based. Rather than points, consumers are offered savings on merchandise — 40 per cent off bestsellers, 10 per cent off all books in-store, five per cent off any books purchased online. More than one million members pay the annual fee of \$25.

"The difference is you get immediate benefits," Horgan says. "Books are an affordable gift, and this holiday season people are going to be seeking discounts and saving a bit more aggressively than in the past."

## Unique wares on offer at online shops

In a tough economy, there's a "flight to value," by consumers trying to stretch their dollars, says Air Miles president and CEO Bryan Pearson.

Looking for ways to meet the demand, Canada's leader in rewards programs, with 15 million cardholders in 10 million households, now offers online shopping for select consumer goods with big Air Miles bonuses.

That's in addition to Air Miles' existing e-store.

"We often come across really neat products and so we decided to make some of them available to our consumers in such a way that they could pay cash and get rewards miles for their purchases," he says.

The site launched Sept. 21 with four products ranging from \$49.99 to \$129.99. Each item comes with 50 bonus miles, plus the regular one reward mile for every \$20 spent. Using an Air Miles affiliated credit card to make the buy also allows consumers to earn even more miles.

"Fifty Air Miles is the equivalent of spending \$1,000," says Pearson. "We see these bonuses as a way to add incentive and create excitement."

The first products on the site were a pocket video cam for \$109.99, an indoor grill for \$49.99, an iPod boombox for \$49.99 and a clock radio and photo frame for \$129.99.

"We've launched this as a pilot project and we'll see what response we get from consumers," says Pearson. The plan is to make limited quantities of select products available for short periods and add new ones as they sell out.

"We'll look at anything that's a good deal and good value for our collector base ... items that might not be readily available in retail stores," Pearson says.

Meanwhile, Air Miles' closest competitor, Aeroplan — with more than four million members in 20 per cent of Canadian households — has also made some recent moves to attract consumers.

Started in 1984 by Air Canada as a frequent-flyer program, the company made a shift in 2003 to expand beyond air travel rewards into retail, hotel rooms and rental cars.

In June, the company launched Aeroplan eStore, offering miles for purchases from 90 retailers, including Dell Canada, Toys R Us, Tiger Direct and Chapters Indigo. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

**Do your homework**

With rising gas prices and airline costs, travel points can be a valuable reward. If travel is important to you, look for a card that allows you to redeem for air travel rewards. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# How to get the most out of your travel reward points

**TERRENCE BELFORD**  
for Metro Canada



Getting the most out of loyalty rewards programs can be a challenge. The range of program options and credit card offerings is huge. In many cases, the number of points needed for big-ticket items can be daunting.

How can the average person make the most out of being a rewards collector?

Here are some tips from a trio of experts: Lynne Kilpatrick, senior vice-president of personal banking at the Bank of Montreal; Stacie Pearson, associate vice-president of retail products at the Toronto Dominion Bank; and Neil Everett, senior vice-president and chief marketing officer at Loyalty One, which operates Canada's largest rewards program — Air Miles.

• **Do your homework.** There is a range of things to consider. First, what kinds of rewards are you most interested in: Travel, merchandise, cash back at the end of the year, charitable giving, money to pay down loans, saving for RRSPs, a credit against your property taxes? Then be realistic. Look at how many rewards points you will need for any or all of these.

• **Look at your own spending and regular travel patterns.** If you seldom get on a plane or if you only put \$1,000 a month on that credit card, the chances of getting that dream vacation while you are young enough to enjoy it are slim. Better to opt for a card and a program that offers low redemption rewards like simple electronics, movie passes or gift certificates.

• **If you fly with regularity and on a specific airline, join that airline's frequent-flyer program and get a credit card that offers miles on that airline.** That way you get to double dip every time you fly on that airline or one of its partner airlines and pay for the trip with the card.

• **Think about programs that offer more than a single way to pick up points.** Bank of Montreal offers Air Miles on a credit card, with debit card transactions plus a multiplier if you have other bank products as well. CIBC has introduced Aeroplan Miles with its no-limit chequing accounts as well as offering them with its Aerogold Visa cards.

• **Look for programs with special introductory bonus offers.** Some companies such as American Express

Canada and CIBC offer up to 15,000 bonus points if you sign up for one of their products within a certain time frame.

• **Enlist the help of family members by sharing a rewards account.** If life partners and older children are all putting points gained

by spending and travelling in a single account, points add up quickly.

• **Maximize your collecting by using the credit card for everything — as long as you can pay outstanding balances every month.** Carry a balance and the interest costs can erode any

benefits gained.

• **Consider the annual fee for the credit card and then translate that into how much you have to spend before you are actually ahead of the game.** If you pay \$60 a year for a card, that means you have to spend at least \$6,000 just

to make up that fee in points collected.

• **Think about ease of redemption, especially with travel.** If you plan trips on the spur of the moment, frequent-flyer plans may not be for you. Aeroplan, for example, only has a lock on eight per cent of Air

Canada's seats in any month, so last-minute trips may not be possible — unless you are willing to pay a significant premium in reward miles. Other programs allow you to book through the travel agent of choice and pay with rewards when the monthly credit card statement arrives.

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA



## Preparing for winter

**Bone-chilling temperatures, snowstorms and icy roadways are just a few seasonal characteristics that have some Canadians considering relocation when winter hits. And while there is not a lot that can be done to help those that despise the cold weather, the hassle of preparing your vehicle can be made a lot easier with a few winter-fighting tips from experts.**

### DO:

- Get rid of the light-weight blues (washer fluid, that is). Some plain blue

washer fluids don't add up to much more than water and a little bit of solvent, so they can freeze on your windshield when the temps go south.

Instead, convert your first tank of summer wash to winter wash by topping off with de-icing windshield washer. It can clear light ice, improve driving visibility and help prevent dangerous re-freeze.

- Change your oil. Motorists that travel short trips of less than 10 miles when outside temperatures remain below freezing should follow a severe



A few simple procedures, such as using the right washer fluids and changing your oil, can help you get your car ready for the brutal onslaught of icy roadways and snowstorms.

maintenance oil-change schedule. While the recommended change interval is 5,000 to 8,000 kilometres, a severe schedule may require more frequent oil and filter changes.

You should consult your owner's manual to learn

the interval schedule that works best for your vehicle, and be sure to use a more premium filter.

- Fight the freeze-over. If you are not a huge fan of the exercise that goes into excessive scraping, windshield de-icer spray with a scraper top can

quickly help melt frost and ice fast, as well as help reduce dangerous re-freeze.

- Prepare for the worst. It could be devastating if you get stranded in cold temperatures. Carry an emergency kit that includes a cellphone, spare jacket,

blanket, extra gloves, scarves and water for yourself, and extra fluids for your car.

### DON'T:

• Mix hot and cold. Pouring hot water on cold glass to clear your windshield could crack it. Consider spraying your car's windows with ice- and frost-blocker. When sprayed on the night before, the formula imparts a barrier on the glass, thus reducing the adhesion of the ice and frost to the windshield and other glass surfaces, making it easier to clear ice from the windows.

- Leave your gas tank on empty. During the winter, it is important to keep your gas tank at least half full. Filling up your tank helps decrease the chances of moisture forming in the fuel lines and possibly freezing.

## Staying safe on slippery streets

**DRIVERS** Most winter accidents are caused by human error. The accident inspectors say that the first snowfall is often the most dangerous since people have not adapted their speed and driving ability to the winter conditions — often losing control and spinning sideways into an oncoming vehicle or stationary object.

So find an empty parking lot or safe place to practice your winter driving skills — or lack thereof. As long as you're not doing hundreds of doughnuts, the local police shouldn't mind.

Anyway, the reason for finding a parking lot is simple: Do you really know how your car handles in the winter?

Think about how you react in a panic stop. Do you jump on the brakes? Try that. Try stopping from the same speed with gradual pressure on the brake pedal. Then try turning and braking at the same time.

Pay attention to how the car reacts — or doesn't react — to your commands.

"With today's cars the warning is more subtle than the old rear-wheel-drive cars that did not have traction control and stability control," says Nigel Mortimer, head of recalls for Transport Canada.

"For example, a front-



Experts say the first snowfall is often the most dangerous since people have not adapted their speed and driving ability to winter conditions.

### Awareness

- By gradually increasing your winter driving skills, you can quickly pick out which drivers to avoid, and with winter tires, you'll have a better chance of avoiding collisions and maintaining control.

wheel-drive car or an all-wheel-drive vehicle will not fishtail when the tires spin. You have to listen for the tire spin, or watch the speedometer needle suddenly jump, or feel the suddenly lifeless steering to realize

that the tires are sliding.

"Even simply braking early for a stop sign will allow you to test the limits of traction in that area before you really have to be stopped."

After all, it's better to feel a sliding car when you don't have two kids in the back while bearing down on a busy intersection.

New drivers or drivers who aren't confident motoring during the winter should consider a winter driving course. Most schools across the country range from under \$200 to over \$600, available in one- or two-day iterations.



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\*On all 2009 models. Compared to MSRP for 2008, same model. \*\*MSRP for a 2009 Murano 3.5 S AWD (L6RG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Altima Coupe 2.5 S (T2RG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Xterra S 4x4 (8CLG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Armada LE-V8 4x4 (7CTG79 AA00), automatic transmission/ 2009 Altima Hybrid 2.5 S (T4HG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Rogue 2.5 S FWD (W6RG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Versa Hatchback 1.8 S (B5LG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Frontier King Cab XE 4x2 (2KLG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Maxima 3.5 SV (U4SG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ 2009 Titan King Cab XE 4x2 (1KAG79 AA00), automatic transmission / 2009 Altima Sedan 2.5 S (T4RG59 AA00), manual transmission/ 2009 Pathfinder 4x4 (5CRG79 AA00), automatic transmission. †\$47,498 MSRP for a 2009 Murano LE AWD (L6SG19 AA00), CVT transmission/ \$29,798 MSRP for a 2009 Altima Coupe 3.5 SE (T2SG59 AA00), manual transmission/\$36,398 MSRP for a 2009 Xterra SE (8CSG79 AA00), automatic transmission/ \$30,698 MSRP for a 2009 Rogue SL AWD model w/Premium Package (Y6SG19 BK00), CVT transmission/ \$16,498 MSRP for a 2009 Versa Hatchback 1.8 SL (B5RG59 AA00) manual transmission/ \$31,798 MSRP for a 2009 Frontier PRO-4X King Cab (4KVG59 AA00), manual transmission/ \$39,950 MSRP for a 2009 Maxima 3.5 SV w/Sport Package (U4SG19 SP00), CVT transmission/ \$35,098 MSRP for a 2009 Titan King Cab SE 4x2 SWB (1KCG79 AA00), automatic transmission / \$29,498 MSRP for a 2009 Altima Sedan 3.5 SE (T4SG59 AA00), manual transmission/ \$40,698 MSRP for a 2009 Pathfinder SE 4x4 (5CSG79 AA00), automatic transmission. Destination and PDE charges (\$1,500)/ (\$1,400)/ (\$1,500)/ (\$1,550)/ (\$1,400)/ (\$1,500)/ (\$1,325)/ (\$1,440)/ (\$1,425)/ (\$1,450)/ (\$1,400)/ (\$1,500), license, registration, insurance, duties and applicable taxes (including excise tax and fuel conservation tax, where applicable) are extra. All prices are subject to change without notice. Retailer may sell for less. †1.9% purchase financing for up to 60 months available only on 2009 Altima Sedan and 2009 Rogue models. Finance Example for a 2009 Rogue 2.5 S FWD (W6RG19 AA00): \$23,798 MSRP, financed at 1.9% APR for 60 months equals \$354.89 per month with \$5,000 down payment. Cost of borrowing is \$995.47 for a total obligation of \$26,293.47. Up to \$84 PPSA, \$1,500 freight and PDE, license, insurance registration and taxes are extra. Finance offers available on Nissan vehicles on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles may require factory order. Offers available for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers.

# Small changes, big difference

The new Acura TL is handsome, powerful and techno-loaded

ROBERT BIENTEMA  
for Metro Canada



of Honda Accord-based efforts, but it's the third-generation version that really caught the attention of Acura aficionados with its techno-loaded combination of angular de-

The Acura TL debuted in 1995 with what would become the gradual evolution

sign and dynamically muscular performance.

Yes, there's been contentment in Acuraville. But if you pressed the TL faithful, they just might admit to a small wish list requesting more of the same — more power, more handling, a more distinctive look and, what the heck, maybe a little more rear seat room while we're at it.

So, with the latest generation design, still handsome as it is, now in its fifth year, a reworking was inevitable — which was why Canadian automotive journalists trekked to New York for the recent unveiling of the new fourth-generation 2009 Acura TL.

So, let's start with size. The 2009 Acura TL is noticeably larger — 156 mm (6 inches) longer, 30 mm (1.8 inches) wider and 10 mm (0.5 inches) taller. And that bigger body rests on a wider track and a 34 mm (1.4 inches) longer wheelbase, all of the latter ap-



plied to a stretch of rear seat room. There's also more trunk room, a larger double-deck glove box, a sliding drawer in the centre armrest and new centre console pockets.

The size increase results are obvious — more interior room and more poise on the road. Yet the size increase has been managed with minimal weight gain and it has not hampered the TL's inherent sporti-

ness.

Which brings us to power and performance. And the one factor that has always sort of sidelined the TL as the wallflower at the sport sedan dance — front-wheel-drive.

While the European originators of the sport sedan niche have remained true to the balance credo of front-wheel-steering and rear-wheel-drive, also inspiring other

Japanese brands like Lexus and Infiniti to follow their lead, Acura remained the only premier brand to dig in its heels and stick with front-wheel power. But as those competitors have begun to push performance further with new all-wheel drive offerings, Acura can now meet them on a level playing field with their own SH-AWD, or Super Handling All-Wheel Drive system.

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**Winter migration**

Snowbirds are heading south in larger flocks than ever, according to Statistics Canada. In 2007, the number of Canadian Snowbirds in the United States jumped to 517,000 from 415,600 in 2006. **TRAVELGUARD.CA**

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# Travel



## The Fall of the Wall

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and to celebrate, cities from Berlin to Leipzig will host special festivals, exhibitions and events. Visit [berlin.de](http://berlin.de) for further details.

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## Good-luck monuments

Travel website VirtualTourist.com has named the top monuments in the world believed to bring good luck:

### 1 Victor Noir Grave; Pere Lachaise, Paris, France:

Although not nearly as famous a personality as most

of the names in this star-studded cemetery, Noir's grave is one of the site's prime attractions. A rub of his trousers is thought to increase fertility.

### 2 Showgirls Bronze; Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada:

If luck is truly a lady

then visitors to Las Vegas should make the kick-line statue outside the Riviera's Crazy Girls review a priority. It's said that a little fanny pat will increase gamblers' odds.

### 3 Bull Mosaic; Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, Milan,

**Italy:** If shoppers in the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele look a little dizzy there's a good reason. Legend has it that planting your heel on the testicles of the mall's bull mosaic and spinning around will bring good luck.

REUTERS

# Frequent flyer tips

## TheTravelJunkie

**Julia Dimon**

[juliadimon.com](http://juliadimon.com)

Having travelled to some 60 countries, with three around-the-world adventures under my belt, I've spent a lot of time flying.

With so much time travelling to and from airports, packing, unpacking, standing in lineups and answering questions from customs officials, I've picked up a few tricks.

- When booking an airline ticket, flying mid-week will not only be cheaper, it won't be as crowded.
- Sign up for frequent flyer rewards points from all airline carriers: Air Canada (Aeroplan), Cathay Pacific (Asia Miles), American Airlines (AAdvantage) and so on.

This way, no matter what airline you fly, you'll be raking up points to put

towards future travel.

- On the day of the flight, check in online. By doing so, you'll avoid one less frustrating lineup, get the chance to select your preferred seat in advance and minimize your airport waiting time.

- Selecting the perfect airplane seat is an art. For short flights, I prefer an aisle seat (more leg room) near an exit row, so I can quickly escape if, in the unlikely event of a crash, the plane bursts into flames.

For long-haul flights, I prefer a window seat, so my head will have something to hit when it nods off. I've also learned the hard way that the seats just before the exit row don't recline.

Not a very comfortable choice for overnight flights; [seatguru.com](http://seatguru.com) is a great resource for plotting your perfect seat.

- Bottles of liqueur may make great gifts but, due to recent rules about bringing liquids on-board, they must be checked. In order to prevent leakage or breaks, wrap these bottles up in clothing and pad

them in the middle of your suitcase.

- Charge up your gadgets, be it laptop, iPod or cell-phone, so they're juiced up for the long plane ride and point of landing.

- There's nothing worse than when your gooey cosmetics explode all over your neatly packed clothing. I like to put anything that can leak inside tightly sealed Ziploc plastic bags. So if a spill happens, at least the mess is contained.

- When you arrive at the airline check-in counter, it may be worth asking if there are any "emergency or exit rows" available. These seats come with responsibility, but you also get extra leg room.

- Think ahead. For the sanity of the rest of us patiently waiting in line behind you ... empty your pockets before you get to the metal detectors.

Scan through your bags to make sure all liquids, tweezers and weapons of mass destruction are not in your carry-on.

Safe travels!

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; [juliadimon.com](http://juliadimon.com).

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A top global travel trend, according to Euromonitor International, is "debaucherism tourism," whereby young adults, seeking to prolong their uninhibited youth, follow in the footsteps of tabloid celebrities and travel to experience out-of-control parties. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Partying on in Reykjavik

Icelanders are still going out to party at night in droves regardless — or maybe because of — the island's near financial collapse. Helped by the Iceland Airwaves pop festival now taking place in clubs across the capital, bars and restaurants along Reykjavik's main street are doing a roaring trade.

"Actually when people get depressed they drink more," said Friesteinn Gisslason, manager of the Solon bar, one of the most popular on the main street.

"The crisis has not hit us so much so far."

Iceland has been a hip travel destination for young Europeans in recent years because of its off-beat nightlife and cultural scene and natural attractions, including thermal pools and volcanoes.

And although the most notable visitors in town are an International Monetary Fund delegation, Iceland hopes more tourists will come in search of bargains after the devaluation of their currency.



Visitors and locals alike in Iceland see their drinks half-full amid the current economic crisis.

"It is going to be so crowded in downtown Reykjavik, similar to good, good summer days. You will see about 20,000 people in this small area. It is going to be a good party, just like normal," said Aegir Dagsson, manager of the Kaffibarinn.

His small, popular bar, central to the cult movie 101 Reykjavik, was packed

on Thursday, with a mostly young crowd and many people waiting to get in.

Arnar Ludviksson, who works at the bar, says "I know 60 per cent of the people that go to this bar, there will be about 200 people here tonight."

In the early hours of the morning, large groups of people are out and about, despite the talk of finan-

cial woes. The finance ministry has said Icelanders' debt is equal to two times their annual disposable income. Some see these problems hitting home further down the road.

But Icelanders say they are used to crisis and have also become toughened in the harsh north Atlantic climate.

REUTERS

## Nervous hoteliers ponder industry's gloomy outlook

The world's biggest hoteliers expect their industry to stagnate as the financial crisis hits lending for new projects and forces people to cut back on travel.

That gloomy realization, expressed at a conference in Hong Kong last week, spells more trouble for the global economy.

Travel and hospitality employs nearly a quarter of a billion people and accounts for a 10th of gross domestic product.

"In the West there's fear, in London and New York you can see it, smell it," said Andy Cosslett, chief executive of Intercontinental Hotels Group.

"Asia is the place to be, but even they're not going to get away with it."

The global travel business will probably expand 0.5 per cent in 2009, according to an increasingly pessimistic World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which had previously forecast 4.5 per cent growth.

The industry has notched up annual growth of three to four per cent

since 2003.

"A crisis like this brings modesty," said WTTC president Jean-Claude Baumgarten, adding that falling property markets across the world would hurt tourism.

"If housing prices rise every year, you feel rich," he said. "If it falls, you feel poor, and that will have an impact on the way you spend your income."

The economic downturn is already biting, with revenue per average room down 1.5 per cent on average in Europe this year. Spain and Italy are hit hardest because of dependence on tourists rather than business travellers.

The global financial turmoil is likely to disrupt big hotel construction plans, as demand wanes, banks recoil from lending, and private equity firms go cold on hotel ownership.

Deals like Blackstone Group's \$26-billion US blockbuster purchase last year of Hilton Hotels Corp. seem from a bygone era.

REUTERS

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**U2 signs new deal with Live Nation**

U2 could earn more than \$850 million US after signing a new contract. The rock band has made a 12-year deal with promoters Live Nation, which will entitle them to 1.56 million shares in the company worth around \$17 million. [FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK](http://FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK)

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# Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, [TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA](mailto:TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA)**Nobel Scarlett**

Actress Scarlett Johansson is to co-host this year's Nobel Peace Concert, which singer Diana Ross will headline in Oslo, Norway, on Dec. 11. [BBC NEWS ONLINE](http://BBCNEWS.ONLINE)

## Sequel overload

Perhaps Hollywood should consider a moratorium

RICK MCGINNIS  
Metro Canada



**A year or so ago, I told the host of a CBC radio program that I thought there should be a rule obliging rock bands to break up after two albums — three if they could make a convincing case that their third album would be a fascinating but unprofitable failure that only made money after years of small but steady sales.**

He was apparently scandalized, and it was a long time before I was invited back, but he was the only person who's ever disagreed strongly with my suggestion, and I've come to the conclusion that most people probably agree, though their feelings likely aren't as strong as mine.

In any case, it's a theory that bears application to almost any other creative endeavour, and to movies with what I can only call a pressing urgency.

Summer was once supposed to be sequel season, but those days seem quaint now, as sequels spread throughout the year, and have leapt out of genres such as horror and action to colonize the whole of the movie industry.

The next few weeks, for instance, will see the release of High School Musical 3: Senior Year and Saw V, as well as the latest iteration on the venerable James Bond franchise.

But, before the year ends, theatres will be graced with



Saw V, out this Friday, is just one of the movie franchise additions planned for the next few months.

the premieres of Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa, Transporter 3 and Punisher: War Zone. The new year already holds the promise of Clive Barker Presents: Hellraiser, My Bloody Valentine 3D, Underworld: Rise Of The Lycans and X-Men Origins: Wolverine among others.

Even if the public at large could, as one, express their wish that the sequel deluge should stop, it has taken on a dynamic that defies mere physics, like perpetual motion or cold fusion.

Steven Spielberg and George Lucas revived the

Indiana Jones franchise last summer after nearly 20 years, though the film was met with cynical shrugs and reviews like the New York Times, full of phrases like "creative ennui" and "something of a bummer."

The sole defence for sequels that isn't purely fiscal is an essentially cynical one that films such as High School Musical 3 and Saw V are products of original ideas that had sequel delivery written in their DNA.

A more creative defence is that sequels allow actors and audiences to explore

characters and storylines at length and in depth has become almost irrelevant in light of the current renaissance of quality television, which is basically making movies many hours long, with huge casts and unprecedented development for even the most peripheral characters.

I am not someone who normally proposes excessive legislation or frivolous laws, but a moratorium on sequels, prequels or remakes might be necessary to shock Hollywood out of its creative palsy.

### Gordon Ramsay served Michelin

**FOOD** Celebrity British chef Gordon Ramsay was served a coveted Michelin star for his new Los Angeles eatery as the Michelin food guide unveiled its second annual lists of top restaurants in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. Ramsay, the expletive-prone star of TV shows such as Hell's Kitchen and Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares, earned a star for Gordon Ramsay at The London West Hollywood which opened in June. [REUTERS](http://REUTERS)

### Alberta author up for book prize

**Seventy-three authors are up for Canada's prestigious Governor General's Literary Awards, with themes of mortality, war and place figuring prominently in several of the books, the Canada Council for Arts said yesterday.**

The English-language fiction finalists are Fred Stenson of Cochrane, Alta., for The Great Karoo, Doubleday Canada; Rivka Galchen for Atmospheric

Disturbances, published by HarperCollins; Ravi Hage for Cockroach, House of Anansi Press; Nino Ricci's The Origin of Species, Doubleday Canada; David Adams Richards for The Lost Highway, also Doubleday Canada.

Hage's novel is the only one that is also up for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, while Galchen is also named as a finalist for the Rogers

Writers' Trust award.

More than 1,400 books have been submitted for the Governor General's awards in seven categories: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, children's literature in text and illustration, and translation.

The winners will be announced on Nov. 18. Each will receive \$25,000.

For a full list of the finalists see [canadacouncil.ca](http://canadacouncil.ca). [REUTERS](http://REUTERS)

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**Rogen has high standards for Ghostbusters**

Seth Rogen will turn down the offer to star in Ghostbusters 3 if he is not impressed by the script. "That would have to be one motherf---ing good script," he says. **IMDB.COM**

## Top Pakistani film figure kidnapped

**PEOPLE** A prominent Pakistani filmmaker and distributor, Satish Anand, has been kidnapped in Pakistan's biggest city of Karachi, police said.

Police say Anand, 57, a well-known show business figure who runs a production house called Eveready Pictures, was abducted on Monday on his way to his home in Karachi's posh Clifton neighbourhood.

Police have no idea who had kidnapped him or why.

**REUTERS**

## Transformers to morph into theme park attraction in 2011

**SPINOFF** Transformers, the Hasbro toy property that led to Michael Bay's blockbuster film and an upcoming sequel, is being developed as a Universal Studios theme park attraction.

The studio said that the attraction will fuse 3D-HD media, special effects and robotics with a ride system. It's scheduled to debut at Universal Studios Singapore and then at Universal Studios Hollywood, both before summer 2011.

Steven Spielberg, a producer of the 2007 film, is also involved. Spielberg serves as creative consultant to the Universal parks division and has worked with the company on Universal Studios attractions Jurassic Park — the Ride, the E.T. Adventure and the War of the Worlds sets.

The Transformers sequel, Revenge of the Fallen, is set to be released in the U.S. on June 26.

**REUTERS**

# Man accused of leaking songs pleads innocent

**A man accused of placing songs on the Internet from an unreleased album by the rock band Guns N' Roses has pleaded innocent in federal court.**

Kevin Cogill, 27, is charged with violating federal copyright law.

Cogill pleaded innocent to the charge on Monday and no date has been set for the trial, said Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The FBI says that Cogill posted nine tracks from Guns N' Roses' upcoming album Chinese Democracy on a website called antiquiet.com.

Cogill was arrested in August at his Los Angeles home and released on bail the same day. He faces three years in federal prison if convicted, and five years if the court finds he posted the songs for commercial gain.

Guns N' Roses said in a statement at the time of the arrest that while it did not condone Cogill's actions, "our interest is in



Guns N' Roses frontman Axl Rose.

the original source" of the material. Mrozek declined to comment on whether there would be any additional arrests.

One of the biggest bands to emerge from the American metal scene in the late 1980s, Guns N' Roses has not released an album of

new material in more than 17 years. Chinese Democracy will reportedly come out later next month, but the project has been delayed multiple times over the years as singer Axl Rose shed all his original bandmates.

**REUTERS**

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Get me out of this rumour!

Former Desperate Housewives star Jesse Metcalfe has slammed rumours he is set to take part in British reality series I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!, insisting he wouldn't participate in the "humiliating" show. [IMDB.COM](#)



# Strike may save Life On Mars

**THE LIVING AND THE DEAD:** No one is hiding the fact that pickings are slim on primetime this season, with reduced production and a paucity of scripts thanks to the writers' strike, which would explain why the networks are taking risks on shows that might otherwise have been in the slag heap in any other year.

Neither The Sarah Connor Chronicles nor Knight Rider have been anything like buzz shows this year; the former show has had good reviews but lukewarm ratings, and the latter has had neither, but they've both been given full season orders by Fox and NBC, their respective network homes. Both shows will get to film a full 22 episodes, though whether all of them will air, or be followed up, remains to be seen.

The Broadcasting & Cable story on Fox's show notes that the network also picked up Fringe, and CBS gave a full season order to The Mentalist. None of these shows have been

IntelleVision



burning up the wires with fan action or pulling in real numbers — not Idol numbers, not even first season Heroes numbers, even — and in normal circumstances the chop-happy Fox would have put them in the wood chipper, but there's nothing normal about the fall of 2008, is there?

Network panic over gutting what little they have on the schedule is, of course, the glass half-empty interpretation of the season; the glass half-full version is that audiences are being given a chance to discover shows, and producers have a chance to develop their stories and perhaps even a base of fans, a luxury increasingly rare in the last few years, where pilot overproduction has



Jason O'Mara stars on ABC's Life On Mars: The U.S. remake of the hit British show lost 25 per cent of the premiere audience with its second episode last week.

seen the networks treat their shows like the Soviet Army treated soldiers on the Eastern Front in WWII — cannon fodder, sent into battle with little expecta-

tion of survival, and an assumption that whoever made it out alive was tough enough to be sent into the meat grinder again.

I've been using ABC's Life On Mars as a yardstick for this TV season — a flawed and troubled production, perhaps even a bad idea to begin with, but

one that exceeded (my admittedly low) expectations when it premiered.

The U.S. remake of the hit British show lost 25 per cent of the premiere audience with its second episode last week — a catastrophic drop that would have virtually guaranteed cancellation on Fox a year ago, though the Variety story made no mention of delayed viewing numbers on PVRs and TiVo, and Life On Mars is exactly the sort of show that would attract an audience uninterested in settling down in front of their sets like good little remote handlers.

If Life On Mars can survive a few more weeks of spongy numbers and perhaps even pick up an audience, it'll be a vindication of fate having forced the networks to play the waiting game, and an unanticipated plus for which the networks, producers and audiences can thank the Hollywood writers' strike.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

## Spike Lee drops his talent agent

**MOVIES** Spike Lee has left his Hollywood talent agent of more than 15 years in the wake of the dismal box office performance of his latest movie. The combative filmmaker jumped to Endeavor from William Morris,



three weeks after his WWII movie Miracle at St. Anna opened to just \$3.5 million; the Disney release has grossed just \$7.5 million to date. Before Anna, Lee directed his largest-grossing film to date, the heist thriller Inside Man, which drew \$176 million worldwide in 2006. A sequel is one of several upcoming projects set up by William Morris.

REUTERS

### In brief

**BOX OFFICE** At the overseas boxoffice, Eagle Eye, Burn After Reading and Max Payne were among films displaying moderate promise in early dates.

**AWARD** Confessions of an Innocent Man, a documentary about a Canadian man wrongly sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia, was named best biographical documentary by the Gemini Awards.

REUTERS

	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
10/22/08	267	351	- ACCESS	Help TV	America's Next Top Model (N)	Dirty Sexy Money (N)	Private Practice (N)	Help TV			
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance Canada	Big Bang Th	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)	News (N)		
	-	-	4 BROAD	(4) Broadcast News News.	Broadcast News News.						
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Pushing Daisies (N)	Private Practice (N)		Sexy Money
	245	306	6 CBRT	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)	CBC News: The National	The Hour	
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	Deep Wreck Mysteries	Bones (N)	NCIS "Nine Lives" (N)	NCIS "Nine Lives" (N)	News Hour	
	246	-	8 CKAL	Law & Order: SVU	Stylista "Pilot" (N)	Secret Life of American Teen	Lipstick Jungle (N)	Your City	Lipstick Jungle (N)		
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)	M pour musique (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)	TJ Alberta	
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming					Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)	CSI: NY	
primetime	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Vote! 2008	Monarchy: The Royal Family	Secrets of the Dead	Independent Lens "Chicago 10"	Independent Lens "Chicago 10"		
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National	Monarchy: The Royal Family	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Knights (HDTV) (N)	Deal or No Deal (N)	Lipstick Jungle	
	-	370	16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Knights (HDTV) (N)	Deal or No Deal (N)	Lipstick Jungle	
	-	373	22 KAYU	MLB Baseball: World Series Game 1	-- Phillies at Team TBA	Malcolm-Mid.	According-Jim	King of the Hill	The Simpsons	News (N)	
	297	652	37 WPIX	Stylista "Pilot" (N)	CW11 News at Ten	Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim	
	500	500	29 CNN	Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)	Showbiz Tonight		Larry King Live	Cooper 360		
	508	502	31 CNN2	Glenn Beck	Nancy Grace			Glenn Beck	Nancy Grace		
	400	400	21 TSN	NHL Hockey	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	SportsCentre	In This Corner	UEFA Champions League Soccer		
	408	418	27 net	(6) MLB Baseball	World Series Game 1 -- Philadelphia Phillies at Tampa Bay Rays.			Sportsnet Connected	Ult. Fighter		
	410	403	30 SCORE	(5) RaceNight	Score Tonight	Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage	
news	411	457	44 OLN	Ed's Up	Adventures	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides	Don't Forget Your Passport	Ed's Up	
	417	406	48 SPEED	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	
	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoe 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	Chill Out Scooby-Doo! (2007)	Albert-Hallow	Ghosts-Scooby	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic	
	575	583	11 CMT	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Ult. Coyote Ugly Search	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Big Comfy	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	Posh & Becks: THS	Knights (HDTV) (N)	Deal or No Deal (N)	News (N)		
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One	EarthWatch One						
	602	568	23 W	House	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny (N)	Gok's Fashion
family	521	560	24 TFC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Kids by the Dozen	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Kids by Dozen	
	603	561	25 FLOD	Iron Chef America	Dinner Imposs.	Dinner Imposs.	Restaurant Makeover	Challenge	Challenge	Iron Chef Am.	
	615	520	26 A&E	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
	617	522	32 SHOW	EastEnders	Saxondale	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County	Billable Hours	G-Spot	Starter Wife
	601	562	33 SLICE	Work Out "In the Mud"	Real Housewives of NYC	Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out "In the Mud"		Housewives	
	-	633	34 ENC2	Betrayal-Silence	(7:25) Dogfight *** (1991, Drama)	Three to Tango * (1999, Romance-Comedy)	(10:40) That Old Feeling				
	520	505	35 DISC	Monster Moves (N)	Mayday	Daily Planet	MythBusters	Without a Trace	Songcatcher		
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Wingfield	Letters	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order "Flight"	Without a Trace	Songcatcher	
	294	650	40 WPCB	(6) Payback (1999)	Cheers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Payback ** (1999, Action) Mel Gibson.		
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Inc.
cable variety	-	539	42 TCM	The Hunchback of Notre Dame	Citizen Kane **** (1941, Drama)	Orson Welles. (DVS)	Val Lewton: The Man in the Shadows	CSI: NY (HDTV)	CSI: Crime Scn		
	628	584	43 SPIKE	UFC Unleashed	The Ultimate Fighter (N)	The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)	Cities of the Underworld	The Real Donnie Brasco	NCIS		
	522	516	45 HIST	The Real Donnie Brasco	NCIS	Stargate SG-1 (DVS)	Lost "Adrift"	Deep Space 9			
	627	528	46 SPACE	Battlestar Galactica	Ghost Hunters International (N)	Blown Away ** (1994, Suspense) Jeff Bridges, Tommy Lee Jones.		Road House			
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) Road House ** (1989, Action)	Reality	Beverly Hills, 90210	Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	
	619	525	49 TROP	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Million Dollar Listing	Holmes on Homes	Mansions	The Stagers	Property Virgin	
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News		
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play	Market Call	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play	
	526	507	92 CLT	(6) Short Cuts (1993)	Mysterious Ways	Judging Amy	Beautiful Minds	Short Cuts			
	269	350	93 APTN	News	Canadian Geographic	Reel Insight	Canadian Geographic Shark.				
cable variety	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino	Hola Que Tal
	571	581	100 MMM	Listed	Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five (Part 1 of 2)	Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five	
	570	580	101 MM	PunchMuch	Justin Timberlake: FutureSex/LoveShow			Punk'd	Justin Timberlake		
	581	566	102 MTV	Real World-Road Rules	Real World-Road Rules	MTV Live	After	Man and Wife	Super Sweet	Real World-Rd	

## critics'corner

### Little Mosque on the Prairie

The anonymity provided by the Internet is a double-edged sword. On the plus side, nobody can tell who you are. On the minus side, you can't tell whom you're dealing with. Just ask Layla (Aliza Vellani), who registers Baber (Manoj Sood) with an online dating site. He meets someone, and they hit it off and agree to meet. Then Layla learns who Baber's cybercrush is and rushes to stop them from getting together in the new episode "The Ties That Bind." 8 PM on CBRT



### Sophie

Oh, Sophie. Age is just a number. In this new episode, Sophie (Natalie Brown) meets a guy who seems to be just right for her in every way ... except one. He's older. Much older. Same age as her mom (Mimi Kuzyk), to be exact. But, hey, the May-September thing can work; just look at Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart, or Warren Beatty and Annette Bening. Speaking of Mom, she's throwing a death anniversary party. No, really. 8:30 PM on CBRT



James Bond star Daniel Craig has turned down the chance to portray Marvel superhero Thor on the big screen, saying it would be "too much of a power-trip" to play both 007 and Thor. [IMDB.COM](http://IMDB.COM)

## Celebrity Buzz

# Paris mulling move to London

**PEOPLE** Socialite Paris Hilton loves life in London so much she is considering a permanent move to the English capital, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

The hotel heiress is currently in the United Kingdom filming her new reality show Paris Hilton's British Best Friend and has been renting a house in London's fashionable Hampstead area.

Now Hilton has admitted that she is keen to move

to the city full-time.

"I love it here, I am going to move here permanently," she tells British newspaper The London Paper. "I have already been here for one month and am much, much happier here."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

# Colin shed 44 pounds for Triage film role

**CAREER** Colin Farrell lived on black coffee, Diet Coke and two tins of tuna a day to perfect a skeletal look on the set of new movie Triage, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

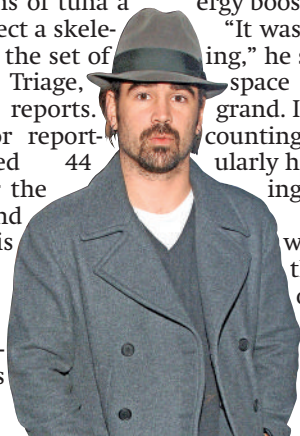
The actor reportedly shed 44 pounds for the movie and admits his decision wasn't "healthy" or "advisable." He is

said to have needed the caffeine just to get the energy boost to act.

"It was kind of depressing," he says. "For a short space of time, it was grand. It was just calorie counting wasn't a particularly healthy way of doing it."

Farrell insists it wasn't hard to put the weight back on: "I just ate like a pig."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



# Doherty opens up about private life

**PEOPLE** Shannen Doherty insists her reputation as an awkward actress is undeserved — she's just keen to keep her personal life troubles away from cast mates and crew, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

The actress was dubbed a wild child on hit 1990s TV show Beverly Hills, 90210 for showing up to work tired and moody, but now she says it was because she'd spent the night in hospital at her sick father's bedside.

Doherty's dad suffered a series of health setbacks during his daughter's tenure on the show, but she chose to deal with them pri-

vately, rather than approaching co-stars or producers for help.

"I'm very private about certain things, and my own cast mates never knew about my dad and his medical problems," she tells Radar magazine.

"Nobody knew I was in the hospital 'til five in the morning and I came straight to the set. People just thought, 'She's unprofessional.' Back then, you know, if I seemed moody, you try having a father be that sick and calling and saying, 'I don't think I can work today,' and being told, 'No, no, no. You're working or we're suing you.' It's brutal."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



# Duchovny suing paper

**LEGAL** David Duchovny is suing a British newspaper over allegations he had an affair with a tennis coach, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

Edit Pakay, 28, has been linked to the X-Files star, following the announcement of his split from wife Tea Leoni.

"I don't want to say anything that might hurt David. I am not going to deny it. I don't know what our relationship means to him," she reportedly told the Mail on Sunday.

But Duchovny's attorney Larry Stein says the

actor will launch legal action over the article because Pakay "never had a romantic or sexual relationship (with him)."

Stein tells People.com, "Ms. Pakay denied the rumours to me in person last Friday, saying they are just friends, and in addition, said in writing that such stories are lies and deceit."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## celebrity briefs

### Hogan's son released early

**PRISON** Hulk Hogan's son Nick Bollea has been released from jail early, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

The former wrestler's son served just 166 days of an eight-month prison sentence for his part in a car crash in August last year that left his best friend John Graziano with permanent brain injuries.

The 18-year-old pleaded no contest to a felony reckless driving offence in May, following the horrific accident in Clearwater, Fla.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



### Paltrow helps Madonna

**RELATIONSHIPS** Actress Gwyneth Paltrow has offered her friend Madonna her undying support as the pop superstar embarks on a divorce battle with husband Guy Ritchie, [imdb.com](http://imdb.com) reports.

The couple officially split last week and Paltrow insists Madonna only needs to pick up the phone and she'll be there for her.

"She's a dear friend, and I'm supporting her in all (the) ways that I can," Paltrow tells Us Weekly magazine. "I'm just here for her. I'm just here on the other end of the phone, really. I speak to her a lot."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## FameThrower

### Joe O'Neill



Joe's take on celebrities

Can the city that survived The Blitz weather the onslaught of the perfect storm of vacuity? We may just find out, because **Paris Hilton** is threatening to move to London full-time. Bearing in mind that Paris makes pronouncements the same way celebrities with a modicum of talent make movies or albums, and that all of these statements should be taken with a grain of salt and a gram of Valtrex, isn't this a bit of a cruel blow to a city already reeling, as every major city in the world is, from an economic downturn?

I suppose **Hilton** is smart enough not to bite the hand that feeds her, unless that's what the sex tape script calls for, and the theme of her new reality show, if I may judge from the title, concerns finding her a best friend who is British. However, it's also possible that she feels so happy in London merely because she hasn't yet familiarized herself with British slang and has no idea words like "slag," "slattern," "tart" and "chippy" aren't complimentary.

Should Paris actually follow through on the move, I can't help but wonder whether she might upset the Trans-Atlantic Bimbo Balance, what with **Gwyneth Paltrow** and **Madonna** already living over there.

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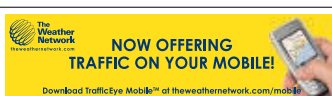


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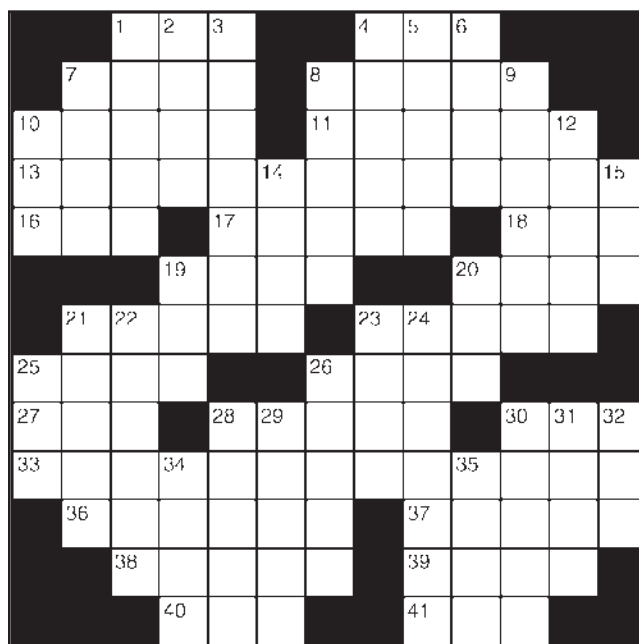
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## Take Five



### Crossword across

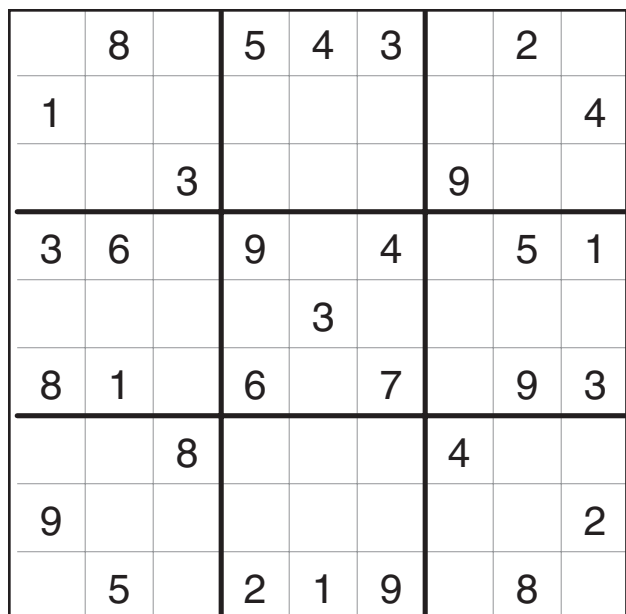
- 1 Lawn moisture
- 4 Away from ENE
- 7 Pop flavor
- 8 First sign of spring?
- 10 Rags-to-riches author
- 11 Mythical sailor
- 13 One of a bridal quartet
- 16 Hot tub
- 17 Bet both ways
- 18 Chaps
- 19 Extra
- 20 They're often connected
- 21 Wed, commercially
- 23 Maestro Walter
- 25 Prohibits
- 26 Become a member
- 27 Italian article
- 28 Disdain
- 30 Evergreen type
- 33 A real humdinger
- 36 Copies, for short
- 37 Stern or Hayes
- 38 Minimum
- 39 Gripes constantly
- 40 Ram's mate
- 41 Astronaut Grissom

### Crossword down

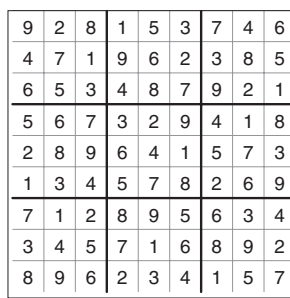
- 1 Definitive tenet
- 2 Gen. Robert —
- 3 Tusked African beast
- 4 Squeeze
- 5 Burn slightly
- 6 "Dragnet" star
- 7 Hoofbeat sound
- 8 Remark to the audience
- 9 Fish that goes upstream
- 10 Donkey
- 12 Because of
- 14 Command to Rover
- 15 Type measures
- 19 "— Robinson"
- 20 Bradstreet's partner
- 21 Estate home
- 22 Body's hardest substance
- 23 "— Free"
- 24 Tinnitus effect
- 25 Schoolkids' carrier
- 26 Supporting beam
- 28 Soda-shop item
- 29 Selected
- 30 U.N. display
- 31 "... — handsome does"
- 32 Fun and games
- 34 Duel tool
- 35 Jacob's brother

### Sudoku

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



### PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



Find today's answers + play more games at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

### SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 min .....Genius  
13-17 min.....Scholar  
17-21 min .....Smart  
21-25 min .....Not bad  
25+ min.....Keep practising

### Recipe of the day



### Quick steamed pork supper

#### INGREDIENTS:

- ¼ lb (280 g) even-sized new potatoes, scrubbed
- 6 oz (175 g) pork tenderloin
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) light soy sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) dry sherry
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) fresh root ginger, peeled and finely chopped
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) ground allspice
- 1 zucchini, cut into fine julienne sticks
- 1 red pepper, deseeded and thinly sliced
- 5 oz (150g) snow peas

#### METHOD:

1. Steam potatoes for 10 minutes. Remove and leave until cool enough to handle.
2. Trim fat from pork. Cut across into an even number of slices, each about ½ inch (1 cm) thick. Mix soy sauce, sherry, oil, ginger, allspice and pepper in a bowl. Add pork and toss to coat with the mixture.
3. Place 2 pieces of foil, each about 12 in. x 8 in. (30 cm x 20 cm) on work surface. Thinly slice steamed potatoes and

spread out on half of each foil piece, leaving a border of at least 1 in. (2.5 cm) around edge. Arrange pork slices on top and pour over juices. Scatter zucchini and peppers on top.  
4. Fold the other half of each foil rectangle over top and make small overlapping folds along edges to seal. Place foil parcels in the steamer basket and steam for 15–20 minutes, until meat and vegetables are cooked. About 4 minutes before the end of the cooking time, add snow peas to water in the pan under the steamer.  
5. Transfer cooked parcels to warmed plates, open to reveal contents and serve with drained snow peas.

**SERVES 2**



### Horoscopes

### AVATAR VENUS

**ARIES**  
**MARCH 21-APRIL 20**  
You can stay in bed or you can get ahead. Don't be too timid to refuse a strategy change. A favour done for a friend will bring you money.



**TAURUS**  
**APRIL 21-MAY 21**  
Your ethical actions will live on for years. Prepare to perk up this afternoon. A nonconformist should avoid caffeine and stop talking.



**GEMINI**  
**MAY 22-JUNE 21**  
Your career luck is at the crossroads. A blonde knows who is really to blame. Be very serious when a fantasy romance takes flight.



**CANCER**  
**JUNE 22-JULY 22**  
Learn how to meditate when a meeting is boring. Show that you have what it takes to be frugal. Dreams about a duty will be tiring.



**LEO**  
**JULY 23-AUG 23**  
It's time to congratulate other people. A buddy guides you through a secret conspiracy. Trust your instincts before getting involved.



**VIRGO**  
**AUG 24-SEPT 22**  
The distortion of facts creates new responsibilities. A moment of greatness will interrupt a trip. A hero will respond to messages.



**LIBRA**  
**SEPT 23-OCT 23**  
It's a good time to make an amusing statement. Someone who's just starting out goes for broke. An unusual program comes under review.



**SCORPIO**  
**OCT 24-NOV 22**  
A bold stranger comes your way tonight. Unleash the power of your daydreams. A friendship will charm and please you as it plays out.



**SAGITTARIUS**  
**NOV 23-DEC 21**  
The power of positive thinking is shared with a family. You have to deal with a beautiful stranger. Pursue the meaning behind a comical tale.



**CAPRICORN**  
**DEC 22-JAN 20**  
Someone wants to see you back down. Vexing frustration can lead to a comforting squeeze. A maternal figure muses about disorder.



**AQUARIUS**  
**JAN 21-FEB 18**  
Tolerate anybody wearing unusual clothes. Discuss an older woman with a busy buddy. Take a chance and do what has to be done.



**PISCES**  
**FEB 19-MARCH 20**  
A troubled younger person will get a harsh lecture. A guilty companion throws her weight around. An ally is waiting for you to open up.



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